The Paragon

The Alumni Newsletter of the Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter of Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity

March 1998

President's Welcome

Brotherhood is for Life. During our stay here we hear this phrase many times. However, it is on this idea that we write this newsletter to you, our alumni. Although all of you have left CWRU for the "real world", it is my hope that all of you have many fond memories of this house, as I am sure I will. I would like to welcome all of you to come back and visit here if you are in the area.

Many of you have met our chef Mr. Jim DiFranco and know first hand of his excellent cooking. We have dinner at 6:00 Sunday through Thursday, and of course you and your families are always welcome. Stop by, and share your stories and memories about the house, classes, and other brothers. We are all brothers, even if we haven't met in person yet, and thus your memories are a part of our history. If you have any stories that you wish to share with us, please call us up, write a letter, or send a card.

Yours in the Bonds,
Tony M. Rossi
President, Ohio Alpha Beta

Our First Annual Alumni Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 21, 1997, the Phi Kap house was alive with over thirty alumni and their families. Kids were running up and down the stairs and playing games, our alumni were catching up with each other, wandering around the house and reminiscing about activities and antics that occurred when they lived in the house. They were giving their kids the grand tour of Phi Kappa Theta, pointing out their fashion sense displayed in the pictures in the composites from the 1970's. Wives were perusing the party books filled with photos of events of the past, identifying their husbands and themselves, and showing their kids what a fun place this was in their college days with all the crazy things that went on. The cast of characters included the likes of people who used to answer to names such as Moose, Hub, Parrot, T-Bag, Rodent, etc. Most of those in attendance were people who had graduated from this Univeristy sometime in the 1970's. All this took place in celebration of the holidays at the annual Christmas Party that has been hosted for the past 20 or so years by Brother Mark "Moose" Francioli. Mark was unable to reserve the usual spot where he has held the party for the past few years, so he called us up and asked to host the party at the house. We were very excited at this possibility and jumped at the chance to reconnect ourselves with the people who have already travelled the path which we are travelling currently here at Phi Kappa Theta and Case Western Reserve University.

As the chairman of the Alumni Relations program at the chapter, I have had to work with the names of our alumni and even some of your occupations for mailings and database updates. I also have exposure to your names from the composites on the wall, so I am familiar with many of your names. The most rewarding aspect of the afternoon was actually meeting you and being able to associate a face and a personality with the names that I know. The list of your occupations is impressive: Senior Vice-Presidents of large companies, owners of your businesses, engineers at NASA, and school teachers at local high schools that I grew up hearing about. Meeting you face to face gave me a new perspective on who you are and I am glad I had the opportunity to do that, as were the other active brothers who were in attendance.

Those alumni in attendance all seemed very pleased at the location and the success of the event, judging from responses heard after the party, and are looking forward to having the party at the house again next year.

Yours in the bonds,
Brian R. Bacher

A Tribute to Our Founder, Mr. Ernie Schmidt

As you all know, Ernie Schmidt was one of the founding members of our Ohio Alpha Beta Chapter from the days when we were know as Theta Psi Kappa and then charted as a chapter of Phi Kappa National Fraternity in 1941. Ernie graduated from Case Institute of Technology that year with an engineering degree and went on to become president of an engineering firm, rase a family, become involved with the Boy Scouts of America, and dedicate much time to the betterment of our Fraternity by forming an advisory board consisting of various alumni. This Alumni Board, under Brother Schmidt's direction, oversaw the purchase of the house we all know well at 11016 Magnolia Drive and, through thick and thin, was always nearby to make sure the house was paid for (even when he had to lend us some of his own hard earned money) and to suggest maintenance measures to ensure that this house will be standing for many years into the future for many generations of Phi Kaps to enjoy and have fond memories of. He received the very first Lifetime Achievement Award our chapter has ever awarded back in 1991 for his years of tireless service to our brotherhood. This award came in conjunction with our celebration of the 50th Anniversary of our chapter which Brother Schmidt was so instrumental in founding.



This past November, at the age of 79, our Brother Ernie entered into eternal rest. A few of our current active brothers represented our chapter and our Alumni Board President was present to represent the alumni chapter at the funeral services held for Brother Schmidt. The people who spoke about Ernie at the services portrayed our brother as a caring and generous man and made me, for one, proud to call him my brother. Since then, we have attempted to come up with a way to properly honor Brother Schmidt for the generosity he showed to us.

Just before the Christmas party that you read about in this newsletter, I received a message from one of our alumni with an idea that had much merit. This idea was to set up a fund in honor of Brother Schmidt that would enable his work of caring for this house to continue. This fund is being set up as you read this letter and is going to be called the Phi Kappa Theta Ernie Schmidt Fund. To remember our founding brother and inaugurate the fund, we will be hosting a dinner in his honor on Thursday, April 23, 1998 with coctails beginning at 6p.m. and dinner served at 7p.m. at the Nido Italia Ristorante located at 12020 Mayfield Road, Cleveland in Little Italy (across from Holy Rosary Church). We would request a minimum $30 donation per person to the fund if you would like to attend. We have invited Ernie's family and a few other special guests for this event. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP and send your donation to Brother Mark Francioli '76 at the following address:

Mark A. Francioli 2674 East 130th Street, Cleveland, OH 44120 216-229-2445

Please RSVP by Sunday, April 19.

The fund has a few guidelines associated with it. This fund is not going to be used for everyday chapter operations, rather is will be used for permanent capital improvements to the physical structure of our house. The fund will be used for improvements that will increase the market value of this house such as replacing windows, updating the electrical wiring and plumbing, remodelling bathrooms or the kitchen, or any other structural improvements that are needed. We have set a goal for the inauguration of this fund: We would like to have a $15,000 balance in the fund by the time we hold the kick-off dinner in April. You may be thinking that this is a large sum of money, but here is the challenge: If each person reading this will send a $25 donation to the fund, we will easily surpass our goal! You can send the donation to the house with a note that it is for the Ernie Schmidt Fund or you can send it directly to the investment firm where the fund is located:

Smith Barney, Inc.
1111 Superior Avenue
Suite 1800
Cleveland, OH 44114
Attn: John Diemer

In honor of a dedicated brother whom all our lives have been affected by, let's make this continuation of his work here something he would be proud of.

Fraternally,
Brian R. Bacher, Chairman, Alumni Relations

This Old Phi Kap House



-Patrick Glynn, Chair

Last semester, an original section of the back stairs was beginning to crack and separate from the joists/studs to which it was secured. The old section was removed, and new stairs were built and installed by brothers Jason Dolan and Tony Rossi.

A new shower for the third floor bathroom was installed. A contractor was hired since the pipes needed to be replaced and sloped under the floor. An access panel with shutoff valves was added in the hallway. A high-quality cartridge-valve and showerhead was installed to increase the water pressure. The plaster surrounding the shower unit was replaced with drywall which was mudded and sanded with the help of several brothers. The entire room was then repainted by brother Josh Adams.

Since the fire alarm system which is scheduled to be installed this semester will utilize in-wall wiring rather than conduit, the walls and ceilings in nearly all rooms in the house will need to be patched. Affected areas of the house will then be painted in order of public visibility. That is, the foyer, chapter room, etc. will be given highest priority.

The fire alarm system will require two new phone lines near the front door. The possibility of installing an outdoor phone connected to one of these lines is being investigated. Of course, the system would be able to override the phone if the alarm were to go off. A phone at the front door would be useful in that frequent visitors could call brothers directly without ringing the doorbell. Since campus phones are present near the entrances of nearly all CWRU buildings including dorms and university-owned Greek houses, most students have become accustomed to using them. Also, such a phone would be beneficial for safety and security reasons.

The Paragon, March 1998

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Joseph M. DiFranco
***CONTRIBUTING WRITERS*:**
Brian Bacher, Ron Cuirle, K. Robert Desforges, Pat Glynn, Adam Grauer, Neal Pence, Tony Rossi, and John Schen

How to contact us: Phone: (216) 754-PKT(1-7)
Email: alumni@phikap.cwru.edu
Internet: http:\\phikap.cwru.edu

Alumni Update

• Joe Hannum '91 and his wife have recently had their first child.

• Larry Dues moved to Arizona this fall to work for Motorola.

• Greg '93 and Jill Flaute have settled in Cinncinnati and their first child, Kayla, was born February 17, 1998.

• Dan '97 and Michele Price are doing well in Chicago and their second child has arrived, Rebecca Ann Price, born January 6, 1998.

Congratulations to all!! Please send us any and all information that you want us to publish in the next PARAGON.

RUSH NEWS



-Adam Grauer, Rush Chairman

The Brothers of Ohio Alpha Beta worked very hard at rush this spring. Though this year's freshman class has been notoriously anti-Greek, our events were popular and drew many rushees back two or more times. The traditional Whirlyball, Formal Brunch, and party—called *Inferno*—were held, as well as some new additions. Students returning for their first day of classes were greeted by free Arabica coffee and Presti's Donuts on KSL Circle. We held a "Night of 1000 Wings" and movies, the "Return of Camp Phi Kap: the BBQ," and revived the invite only Spaghetti Dinner, as well.

But paramount to our rushing success was that every Phi Kap brother spent at least three days dormstorming, paintballing, watching movies, playing sports, or road tripping to Niagra with rushees. Three of our planned events drew 100% brother attendance. The rushees noticed this participation and personal attention, so that when we extended 13 bids, 10 accepted. Spirits and confidence are high in our growing house. This semester's rush was a true brotherhood builder.

Please be in touch with our pledges! Their names are: Gabe Bloom (gsb2@po.cwru.edu), Andy Cross (awc@po...), Nick DeCenzo (ned2@...), John Dutton (jad9@...), Vic Encarnacion (vre@...), Ben Langhals (bjl4@...), Danesh Mazloomdoost (dzm63@...), Ken Nagano (kkn3@...), Brandon Palmer (bap@...), and Eric Pinzur (esp4@...). If you do not have access to email, please contact one of us at (216) 754-PKT1 to PKT7, and we will help you be in touch with our new associates.

Our Official Treasury Note

Fellow Brothers:

I am pleased to be given the privilege of providing you with a short summary of our houses financial standing. Although things can always do better the house is at a very stable summit. Over the past year we have been able to drop our alumni debt. More specifically it has dropped from $20,000, just a year ago, to about $8,000 presently. Congratulations to Tom Noe and Matt Nelson on their recent completion of the payment plan. There have also been donations totaling $1,155. We are presently working on regaining our tax exemption status. Our other goal is to acquire the necessary funds for the repairs to the house because of the new fire system that is being installed. Here is to a prosperous year.

Your Brother,
Neal A. Pence
Treasurer



We Thank You!

We would like to recognize and appreciate those alumni brothers who have sent us financial donations. Your help is greatly appreciated and comes in very handy for things like the improvements mentioned above. Thank you very much and we look forward to future donations.

- Don Manuzak
- Phil Tsubaki
- Anthony Butera
- Mark Francioli
- Rob Modic
- Ralph Vollbrecht

We also want to especially thank the anonymous donation that we received this past semester. Your donation truly reminds us to give, expecting nothing thereof.

MISSING IN ACTION

We do not have addresses for the following brothers: David Archer, Joseph Banks, Norman Berger, Richard Biley, Stephen Bird, John Biscan, Edgar Black, Gregory Black, George Calhoon, Ronald Carlini, Dennis Carter, James Cerne, Rick Cherry, Michael Civita, Vincent Coppolecchia, Paul Cortelessi, Lee Craner, Ross Csaszar, Thomas Daly, Mario Delisio, Douglas DeWeaver, Alan Diemer, and Richard Dober.

If you have any information regarding them, please forward it to us. Thanks.

YOU'RE INVITED!!

You and a date are cordially invited to join the brothers of Phi Kappa Theta at The Ohio Alpha Beta Spring Formal Friday, March 20th, 1998 at The Radisson Inn - Beachwood, OH.

- Cocktails at 7pm; Dinner at 8pm
- Limited tickets are available.

RSVP by March 6th to reserve your spot and get your glassware. (Reservations made after March 6th cannot be guaranteed glassware)

- Single ticket - $50 ($60 with glassware)
- Couple - $90 ($100 with glassware)

(note to those who received postcards - tickets prices were previously advertised as fixed. We apologize. If you are not interested in glassware and have already called to make your reservations, please contact Ron at the number below to make corrections.)

For directions or room reservations, please contact the Radisson Inn at 216-831-5150 by Tuesday, March 10th. Be sure to mention that you're with the Phi Kappa Theta Alumni for special room rates.

Formal Chairman - Ron Cuirle
11016 Magnolia Drive
Cleveland, OH 44106-1812
216-754-7587
cuirle@phikap.cwru.edu
http://phikap.cwru.edu/alumni



Alumni Board Meeting

Monday, March 16, 1998

8:30pm at the

Phi Kap House



A story about brotherhood...

Sometimes the last item on your mind as you're stuck parked in traffic in a city block in hot, summer whether is brotherhood. It was for me one mid-afternoon day in Boston this past summer. Yip, it was hot (mid-90's) and I was in the middle of Boston heading to my Aerospace class (for the Air Force). But it was cool, you see, 'cause I was in a cool city to be in, got the radio turned up listening to Barbie Girl, and the airconditioning going. As I was crawling up Massachusetts Avenue at 1 mile/hour, a thousand thoughts ran through my mind, many of which I could have discarded easily. However, something made me think of, which led into a daydream, sitting in the Red Room looking through a little book about the Phi Kappa Theta brotherhood called a "Journey Book".

"Yes, I remember", I thought to myself as I screeched to a hault to let a wonderful pedestrians cross the street. In the back of my mind, I remember all the descriptions of brotherhood, what it all supposed to mean, etc... I also remembered looking at the locations of all of the other chapters of Phi Kappa Theta. Then, it hit me! There's one right here in Boston, if memory serves, at the Massachusetts Institute
of Technology, or MIT for short! Well, I quickly decided I had to check that place out. ...you know, to see if it was like the same old Phi Kap I had left earlier...

I finally got to the street that I had to turn on to get to my detachment (Air Force ROTC term), and I realized I had some time to kill. So, not knowing the location of the MIT chapter of PKT, I headed for MIT's campus. There, I asked around, and took a stroll down Memorial Drive, the street with all the fraternities located on campus . . .no PKT!!! After asking around, I found out it was off campus,
located on Commonwealth Ave, actually close to my detachment! Hmmmmm, maybe I could "pop in" after my class.

6:00 came by and class was dismissed. It was actually Lead Lab where we learn all the basics of the air force way of life, but that's not important at this point. So anyway, I changed out of my uniform (yip, I had one!) and into cooler clothes, put my CWRU hat on backwards, and marched down Commonwealth Ave for Phi Kappa Theta.

It took me about 15 minutes to walk the distance. I crept upon this old tenament house amid others like it on the left side of the street. It was beautiful. I don't know if any of you has ever been to Boston, but all the housing buildings are adjacent to eachother, and mostly all brick. That's the atmosphere of Boston, close and quaint. When the bushes in front passed me opening up the view to the lower front enterance, great pride filled me when my eyes casted upon a brilliant
rple flag bearing the letters "Phi", "Kappa", and of course, "Theta".

Walking down the steps to the door, I looked up to the words "Massachusetts Eta", and I quickly gave a rap on the door. Someone answered!!!!! "A brother" I asked myself in my mind...

"Hello" he said. "Hi, I'm Kevin, a brother of the Ohio Alpha Beta chapter of Phi Kappa Theta" I said extending my hand to see how he would take it.

With a smile saying "no way, really?", he quickly took my handshake properly inviting me in. The house was beautiful--it's so old and their chapter room is like it just stepped out of the nineteenth century. They have about 35 brothers, all but 2 live in house. I quickly got aquainted and was introduced to the rest of the 'hood. I made some friends that night, got invited to one of their parties, and ate diner there.

But, my overall impression is they are like us Alpha Beta's in many ways it's scary, and also very different. They are not as close knit as we are. Their traditions are similar, but have variation. For example, they do have "Pass the Gavel" at the end of chapter, but if it falls, they have to kiss it. They don't have the thing where brothers try to take it without the president's knowing and he has to try and find it like we do. Their initiation is early in the morning after a night of games and recreation with the 'hood unlike ours which is at midnight after the walk. They don't have a nightly walk, but they do have a tour of MIT the day before initiation.

Just like every brother told me, I was well welcomed into their house. It was more than that... ...it felt like an extension of the old Phi Kap I grew to love, even then, 600+ miles away. The brothers are neat. They're not 'geeks' or heavy partiers like other fraternities. They're a lot like us, just a bunch of cool guys that live in a house under the same flag of Phi Kappa Theta. That day served as another reminder
that seems to pop up every now and then about the true nature of Brotherhood,our values we try hard in our lives to live up to: the Phi, the Kappa, and the Theta.

YITB
K. Robert Desforges
Alumni Committee

A word from the Historian

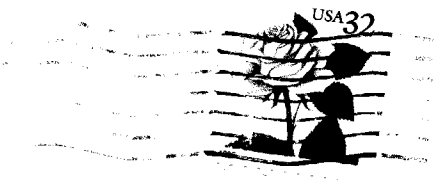
Over the years our House has been rich in both brotherhood and tradition. While we share the brotherhood through our entire lives, many traditions come and go. I thought it would be interesting if the current active brothers in the chapter could hear about some of the past traditions from our alumni. If you have a particular custom or tradition that you would like to share with the brothers, please send it to the house, e-mail me (jds15@po.cwru.edu), or call (216) 754-PKT1 and ask for John or leave a message. I would like to share these traditions with the brothers at chapter and perhaps reinstate some of them if possible (and legal).

Attention alumni from the 1950's, 60's, and 70's: The composites from the years 1952, 1966, 1969, and 1977 have been in disrepair for some time now. The biggest problem is that we cannot match the names with the faces of brothers whose pictures have fallen off of these composites. If you think you can help in restoring the pictures to their proper positions, please drop by the house. Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give in restoring these composites.

Phi Kappa Theta
11016 Magnolia Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44106

Forwarding and Address Correction Requested





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